THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) and (b) UGC has taken a decision, in principle, to set up its regional offices in different parts of the country. No decision on the location or the time frame for opening of these offices has been taken.

Removing Hindi from the curriculum of Navodaya Vidyalayas

637. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to remove Hindi from the curriculum of Navodaya School to be set up in non-Hindi speaking States like Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if not, whether Government propose to provide funds for setting up Navodaya Schools to the States which do not have these schools ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) There is no such provision in the scheme to provide funds to the States.

Higher education and universal primary education

638. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are spending a disproportionate amount on higher education at the expense of fulfilling the objective of universal primary education ;

(b) if so, the details of the expenditure on higher education and primary education at present; and

(c) the action Government propose to take to achieve the goal of universal primary education in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) and (b) Central and State Government expenditure on Higher Education including Technical Education was Rs. 10043 crores during the Seventh Plan (1985-90). The corresponding expenditure for Elementary Education was Rs. 23582 crores. In terms of percentage, Higher Education including Technical Education works out to 19.2% and Elementary Education 45.1% of the total budgeted expenditure on Education.

(c) Some of the main steps taken to universalise elementary education are :

(i) The provision of education upto elementary stage free of tuition fee in the Government schools in the country;

(ii) The provision of primary schools within 1 km. walking distance of all habitations with a population of 300. In the case of SC/ST habitations, the norm is relaxed to include habitations with population of 200;

(iii) Provision of incentives such as free uniform, free textbooks, attendance scholarship for girls, mid-day meals to SC/ST children and girls;

(iv) Improvement of physical facilities in primary schools under the centrally sponsored scheme of Operation Blackboard;

(v) Establishment of District Institutes of Education and Training for improving teacher effectiveness; and

(vi) Provison of part-time non-formal education to school drop-outs, girls and working children.

Sites of Mahabharat discovered in Morena, Madhya Pradesh

639. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some ancient sites of Mahabharat era have been found in Morena district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so,, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to undertake excavation at other places also in the State ;

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard ; and

(e) what action Government have taken to preserve these sites of archaeological importance?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI, ARJUN SINGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, exploration of the ancient sites of villages Kutwar, Sihoniya, Tutwas ?

Gulatha, Gilaulikhera and Nibi of Morena, district has yielded some ancient pottery, antiquities and other remains.

(c) and (d), No, Sir.

(e) As these sites are not Centrally protected, attention of the district authorities has been drawn to ensure that these are not disturbed and damaged.

Misutilisation of UGC Grants

640. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the University Grants Commission (UGC) had set up probe Committees for each University in the country to inquire into misutilisation of the UGC grants by the principals and the Heads of the Departments during the 7th Plan period as per the news itew entitled, "UGC to probe funds misuse" which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated 19th January, 1992 ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof :

(c) whether Government propose to entrust the job of such inquiry to the C.B.I.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) to (d) According to the information furnished by the UGC, the Commission received complaints regarding alleged misuse of UGC grants by the following colleges in Bihar :—

1. *J. N. College, Madhubani affiliated to L. N. Mithila University* :

The complaint related to bungling in the construction of additional teaching accommodation sanctioned by the UGC and purchase of sub-standard books. The complaints were investigated through the Vice-Chancellor of the affiliating University. The report received by the commission showed that the building had been constructed according to specifications prescribed for the same as per norms laid down in the estimate and plan and no cracks appeared in the building as alledged in the complaint. Regarding purchase of books, the report of the Vice-Chancellor showed that an excess payment of Rs. 493- 50 had been made to the supplier and a few books were of sub-standard. The Vice-Chancellor has been requested by the Commission to take suitable action against the college to avoid recurrence of such lapses in future.

2. *Mahila College, Dari-on-Son affiliated to Magadh University* :

The complaint related to purchase of books and equipment. It has been referred by the Commission to the Vice-Chancellor of Magadh University for a report.

3. *S. B. College, Arrah affiliated to Magadh University* :

The complaint related to purchase of books and equipment. The complaint has been referred by the Commission to the Vice-Chancellor, Magadh University for a report to the Commission.

Dowry Deaths

641. DR. SANJAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Dowry deaths in each State/Union Territory in the country during the last three years till date ; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to prevent such Dowry Deaths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMERT OF WOMAN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE) : (a) A statement showing the number of deaths in each State/UT based on the information received from Ministry of Home Affairs during the last three years is attached. (*See below*)

(b) Goverment has initiated various steps to discourage the giving and taking of dowry. These include ;

(i) Instructions have been issued to the State Covernments/UT Administrations to effectively enforce the legislations relating to crimes against women,

(ii) Mass Media campaigns against the social evil of dowry have also been stepped up.

(iii) A number of schemes for training, income generation, economic development and various supportive services for wowen are being implemented by the Government to enable women to